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[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/)

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### **Sen. Van Woerkom announces pay-bonus legislation for veterans**

**LANSING** –Legislation to be introduced by Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, Norton Shores, would give veterans of the U.S. armed forces a pay bonus for their service in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Van Woerkom's plan would give veterans who are Michigan residents or their beneficiaries a \$1,000 bonus if they saw combat. Non-combat veterans would receive \$500. The legislation is similar to laws that gave bonuses to veterans of previous foreign wars.

"Michigan veterans should know that we back their dedicated service to our country and wish them a safe and swift return home," Van Woerkom said. "For serving our country so honorably, Michigan veterans deserve our support. They are on the front lines of defending our freedoms and protecting our nation."

The senator and others are highlighting the legislation in Muskegon on Wednesday night at the Military Not Forgotten event at the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts.

Van Woerkom's legislation drew the praise of David R. Eling, director of the Muskegon County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and a former U.S. Air Force service member.

"The legislation will allow the state to thank its residents who have served in our nation's armed forces during this current conflict," Eling said. "Michigan has in past conflicts thanked those who so honorably and faithfully represented their communities and this state. As a result of the current hostilities, many have been wounded and more than 60 of our fellow Michiganders have paid the ultimate price to protect our way of life."

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